




**Memorandum**

TO: The Honorable Tony McCombie, House Minority Leader  
The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President  
The Honorable John Curran, Senate Minority Leader  
The Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch, Speaker of the House  
Doctor Sameer Vohra, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health

FROM: Dr. Tony Sanders   
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: September 26, 2023

SUBJECT: The Administration of Undesignated Asthma Medication Report, School Year 2022-23

“The Administration of Undesignated Asthma Medication Report, School Year 2022-23” is issued pursuant to Section 22-30 of the Illinois School Code [105 ILCS 5/22-30]. This report summarizes the characteristics of cases and dosages of undesignated asthma medication reported to the Illinois State Board of Education during the 2022-23 school year.

A summary of the major findings:

- There were 399 instances of administration of undesignated asthma medication during the 2022-23 school year.
- Most occurrences, 76.69 percent, were within a school building.
- More occurrences were reported in the morning than in the afternoon.
- Metered dose inhalers were used for administration most of the time.

This report is transmitted on behalf of the state superintendent of education. Please contact Dana Stoerger, executive director of Legislative Affairs, at 217-782-6510 or [dstoerge@isbe.net](mailto:dstoerge@isbe.net) to obtain additional copies of this report or for more specific information.

cc: Secretary of the Senate  
Clerk of the House  
Legislative Research Unit  
State Government Report Center

**The Administration of Undesignated  
Asthma Medication,  
School Year 2022-23**

**Illinois State Board of Education**

**Safe and Healthy Climate**

**Wellness Department**

**September 26, 2023**

*Dr. Tony Sanders*

*State Superintendent of Education*

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## Foreword

The administration of a stock supply of asthma medication to persons who may be experiencing respiratory distress is permitted by Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/22-30). Public Act 100-0726 requires a report to be provided to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) by each Illinois public and nonpublic school that administers a dose under this Act. Schools are to report information about the incident that necessitated use of the rescue medication to ISBE within three days.

This report is a compilation of data on the frequency and circumstances of undesignated asthma medication administration during the preceding academic year. Inquiries regarding this report may be directed to Rebecca Doran in the Wellness Department at 217-782-5270.

## Background

Any Illinois school may obtain a medical order for quick relief asthma medication, including albuterol or other short-acting bronchodilators, delivered through a metered dose inhaler with a reusable or disposable spacer or a nebulizer with a mouthpiece or mask. Schools may maintain a supply of the drug and train personnel to recognize and respond to a person experiencing respiratory distress. ISBE shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly by Oct. 1 every year and publish the report online on the same day of its submission. This report summarizes the data reported to ISBE during the 2022-23 school year.

## Methodology

Data collection instruments and procedures used by schools to report data on the use of asthma medication are in accordance with the formal rules process ([Rule 1.540](#)).

The 2022-23 data collection was conducted using the [Undesignated Asthma Medication Reporting Form](#) (ISBE 34-22). Schools emailed the completed forms to [asthmamed@isbe.net](mailto:asthmamed@isbe.net) or submitted the information using an online [portal](#).

## Limitations

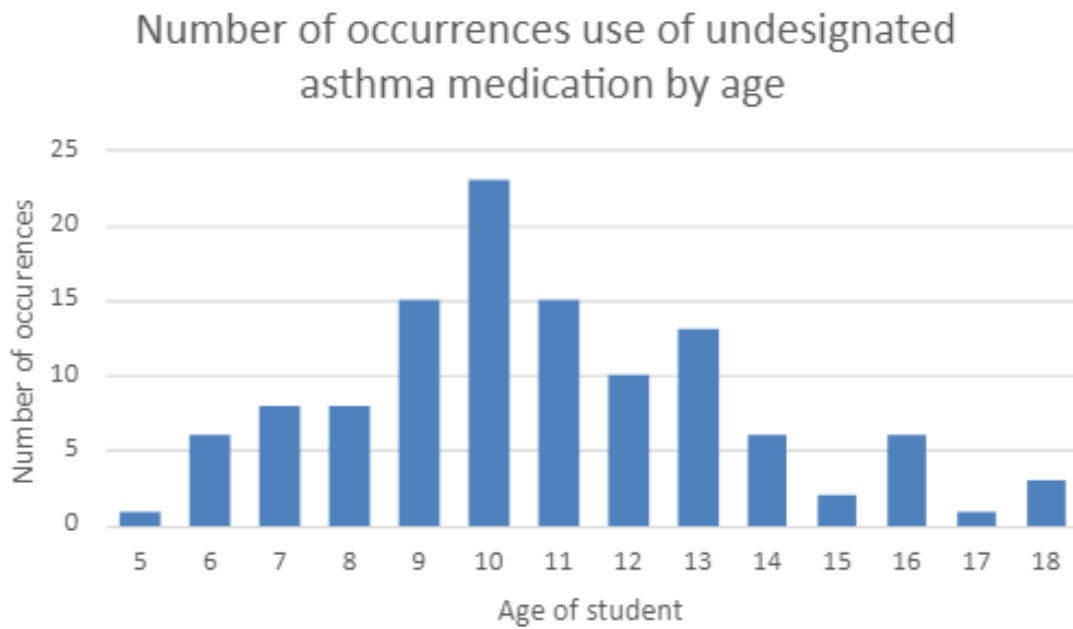
The reporting requirement of this Act pertains to the school year 2022-23, which ended June 30, 2023.

- Submissions were received by email and by online portal.
- The validity of the data reported is subject to accessibility of the reporting systems. There were periods of outages for the online portal for several weeks. Reports received during that time were manually entered into the data spreadsheet.

## School Year 2022-23 Results

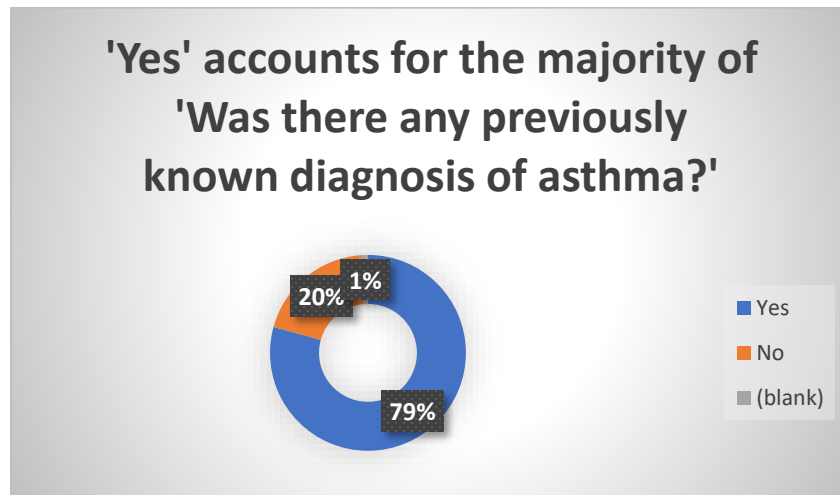
There were 399 reports of undesignated asthma medication administered for the 2022-23 school year, with 387 administered via metered dose inhaler (MDI) and 11 using a nebulizer; one report did not indicate the method of delivery. Six of the reported uses of undesignated asthma medication indicated using a spacer chamber. A single report indicated student receiving three puffs from an MDI; this was the only occurrence that showed more than the typical two-puff dose. A total of 390 doses were administered to students and six doses to school staff members; three reports gave no indication of the person's role.

**Figure 1. Number of occurrences by age of student**



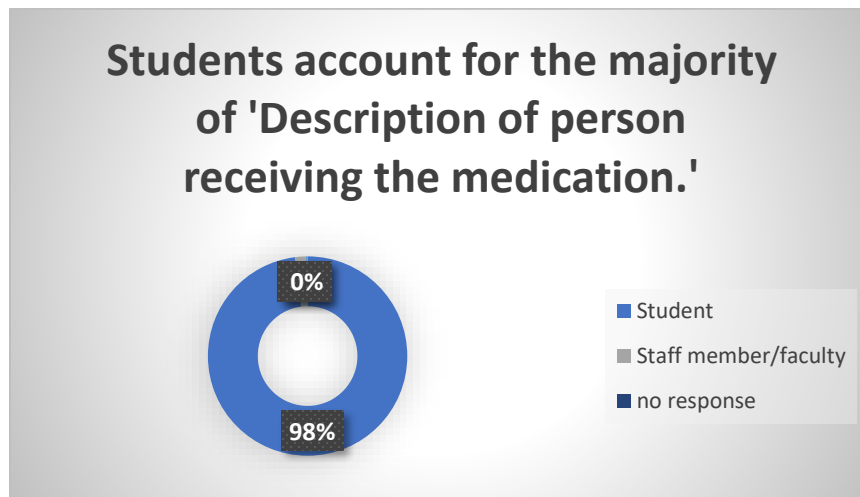
The students ranged in age from 3 to 19 years, with the mean age of 10.83 years and the median age of 10 years.

**Figure 2. Previous diagnosis of asthma**



There were 310 students and five staff members with a previous diagnosis of asthma. A single staff member and 77 students did not have a diagnosis of asthma. Sixty-one students had an asthma action plan on file with the school.

**Figure 3. Person receiving medication**



The undesignated asthma medication was administered 96.99 percent of the time by nurses (registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or advanced practice nurse) and less than 1 percent of the time by trained personnel who are not licensed health professionals -- once a by a student and once when a staff member self-administered the undesignated albuterol. A total of



20.55 percent of the incidents were reported to the student’s health provider and 73.93 percent were not. A parent declined provider notification in 12 instances.

Forty-six public school districts, one nonpublic school, and one nonpublic special education school reported use of undesignated asthma medication. A Sangamon County public school district had the greatest number of episodes in which undesignated albuterol was administered. It reported 63 administrations, with 74.3 percent of doses administered in a middle school building. The second greatest number was from a district in Macon County, with 52 reported incidents; 13 of those were in one of the district’s high schools.

The earliest date of reported use came on August 17, 2022, with the last occurring on June 22, 2023.

**Table 1**

Location where symptoms developed	Count
Within school building	304
On school grounds	77
Other: Running the mile outside in the cold	1
Other: ongoing for several weeks, but worsening	1
Other: before school	1
Student was running for the school bus	1
Started on school bus	1
Category includes the word "home"	9

Occurrences were more frequent in the morning hours with 211, while 183 happened in the afternoon hours; others did not specify a time. The earliest reported time was 7:25 a.m. and the latest was 3:30 p.m. Most (76.69 percent) occurred within a school building; 19.29 percent of occurrences reportedly occurred on school grounds, and eight were reported as other or had location indicated as home, before school, running outside in cold, running for the school bus, a workout facility off school grounds, when he left his home, ongoing for several weeks, or on school bus.

**Table 2**

Districts reporting use of undesignated asthma medication			
Adlai E Stevenson HSD 125	CHSD 99	Homer CCDS 33C	Rockford SD 205
Alton CUSD11	Clinton CUSD 15	Kinnikinnick CCSD 131	Schaumburg CCSD 54

Arbor Park SD 145	Darien SD 61	Kirby SD 140	Special Education District Lake County
Aurora West USD 129	Decatur SD 61	Lyons SD 103	Summit SD 104
Ball Chatham CUSD 5	East Maine SD 63	McLean County USD 5	Sycamore CUSD 427
Barrington CUSD 220	East Prairie SD 73	Midwest Central CUSD 191	Township HSD 214
Bloomington SD 87	Flossmoor SD 161	Moline-Coal Valley CUSD 40	Urbana SD 116
Bremen CHSD 228	Freeport SD 145	Moline-Coal Valley CUSD 40	Valley View CUSD 365U
Carbondale ESD 95	Geneva CUSD 304	Mount Prospect SD 57	West Northfield SD 31
Carterville CUSD5	Glenview CCSD 34	Murphysboro CUSD 186	Wheeling CCSD 21
CCSD 93	Granite City CUSD 9	Northbrook SD 28	Woodland CCDS 50
Hawthorne CCSD 73	Prairie Crossing Charter School		